



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** September 15, 2017  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Old Bay Bridge Demolition Implosions Continue One Year Ahead of Schedule, Saving Millions**

*Tomorrow the Second of 6 Saturdays*

**Oakland** — Caltrans confirms tomorrow will be the second of 6 Saturdays this Fall that 13 Old Bay Bridge east span marine foundations will be demolished by controlled charges, keeping on track the early completion plans to avoid two more fall seasons of work, and removing the 13 marine foundations by the end of 2017. A series of implosions to demolish the 1936 concrete structures that stand up to 4 stories tall underwater in the bay adjacent to Interstate 80 are scheduled every other weekend, continuing tomorrow September 16 as early as 9:30 AM and then every other weekend through November 11, 2017.

"The contractor and Caltrans team are keeping safety and environmental protections as first priorities during removal of these marine foundations at slack tide times," emphasized Caltrans Chief Deputy District Director Dan McElhinney, "We appreciate the patience of motorists during each brief implosion event as CHP will assist us with a 20 minute traffic pause before arriving on the new east span bridge both directions to help avoid nearby noise distraction to drivers."

This year Caltrans is combining multiple piers on demolition dates, saving a year of work and over \$10 million by accelerating the implosion schedule for the original Bay Bridge marine piers. Dating back to the first successful Pier E3 Demonstration Project in November 2015, Caltrans has gained the support throughout from environmental regulatory agencies for permits supporting this innovative implosion method that minimizes any impact to marine life during debris removal in the San Francisco Bay.

Significant environmental monitoring will take place before, during, and after each blast to evaluate water quality, marine mammals, fish, and birds. The time period from September through November provides the window when the least number of fish and marine mammals are present in the area. There will be brief impacts to water quality, as



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turbidity is expected to dissipate in just over an hour. Studies conducted from 2015 and 2016 implosions showed minimal impacts to marine mammals and fish due to the blasts.

A Blast Attenuation System, better known as the “bubble curtain,” will be in place around the piers to minimize impacts to biological resources by reducing blast area forces in the Bay during an implosion. The implosion time will again take place near “slack tide” when tidal fluctuation is at a balance point between ebb and flow to further help minimize potential impacts to the environment by maximizing the effectiveness of the Blast Attenuation System.

Caltrans is working with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the US Coast Guard (USCG), and local law enforcement agencies to ensure the public safety of motorists, boaters, bicyclists, and pedestrians. CHP will be initiating traffic rolling closures lasting up to 30 minutes on Interstate 80 eastbound and westbound approaching the Bay Bridge during each announced demolition activity.

Last year, Caltrans contractor Kiewit Manson, AJV, successfully removed larger Piers E4 and E5 following the successful removal of Pier E3 in 2015. These innovative controlled charges have been shown to be more efficient and the environmentally preferable alternative to traditional marine foundation removal.

During planned contractor site preparation, the Bay Bridge Bike Pedestrian Path will be closed for security and safety one week before each scheduled Saturday implosion, then reopen within hours that day for a week until the next closure date.

The calendar for the Bike Pedestrian Path may be found at [www.baybridgeinfo.org](http://www.baybridgeinfo.org).

The best place to watch the upcoming implosions will be on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or by following #BayBridgeDemo on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.



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## Tentative Schedule for the Implosions of the Original Bay Bridge Marine Foundations - Piers E6 through E18 – September through November 2017

Potential Weekend Dates	Marine Piers	Implosion Window
<i>Dates and times may change during the planned weekend due to weather, presence of marine animals, and other conditions</i>		
<del>September 2, 3, 4 – Labor Day Weekend</del>	E7 & E8	10AM-12PM
September 16, 17, 18	E6	9:30AM-11:30AM
September 30, October 1, 2	E9 & E10	9AM-11AM
October 14, 15, 16	E11, E12 & E13	8:30AM-10:30AM
October 28, 29, 30	E14 & E15	7:30AM-9:30AM
November 11, 12, 13	E16, E17 & E18	6:30AM-8:30AM

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